

It is unfortunate that there does not yet exist the ability for any individual to broadcast live video to his or her peers locally, nationally, or internationally. With technologically superior transmission media and protocols on the horizon I'm convinced that time will come within my life.

However, it is not yet here and so the limited public broadcasting resources of television and radio have to be managed. This difficult task has been entrusted to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on behalf of the American citizens. Clearly, there is a delicate balance that must be maintained to satisfy the needs and desires of the public and those of the corporations willing to invest in broadcasting.

Within recent years there have been many large consolidations of media broadcasting organizations. The new conglomerate media corporations certainly have a national view as can be seen in their "one-size-fits-all" programming. This programming is often broadcast to all stations within their organization. Because of this, local views, alternative opinions, and alternative programming are often cast away so as not to marginalize any one member of the conglomerate's very broad audience or so as not to contradict the conglomerate's own opinions and interests. Unfortunately, the effect of this is an often weak and one-sided view of the world being broadcast to millions of Americans over their airwaves.

In my opinion, Sinclair Broadcasting's recent decision to air an anti-Kerry documentary just before the November presidential election is a negative side effect of the consolidation described above. As described on Sinclair's own web site their, "...television group reaches approximately 24% of US television households..." This is an extremely significant number of people and each one of them has the right to be served with relevant and bi-partisan programming on their public airwaves.

I don't think that Sinclair is providing unbiased or valuable programming with the rash decision to air, "The Point Special: Stolen Honor." I describe it as rash because as of today, October 17, 2004, according to Sinclair's web site, "The program has not been videotaped..." I could see how a news event that was covered live would have pertinence to viewers but a program that is created less than a week before it is to air could not have been adequately evaluated for value. Also, the fact that this program is being aired immediately following a 30 minute commercial during the evening weekend viewing hours is suspicious. There are no other 6:30pm weekend slots on my local Sinclair station (KQVR13, Sacramento, CA) that are dedicated to paid programming. I suspect that the half hour paid programming is an extension of the program to follow. If it is a commercial then all other parties interested in airing their own 30 minute commercial should be allowed to do so for the same cost during

the same or similarly popular time slots.

Enforcement of such fair access to media is the duty entrusted to the FCC. Certainly, the FCC will act in a manner to provide such balanced access and to provide the stewardship that people like my friends, my family, and myself have trusted for years.

Thank you,
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